

**PROGRAM CHARTER  
FOR  
AIRCRAFT SERVICES**

Program Manager: Elizabeth White

Fleet Services Sub-Goal Team Lead: Elizabeth White

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Aircraft Services Program, a mission support program in the Fleet Services Sub-Goal, operates and maintains a fleet of fixed-wing and rotary aircraft to meet the airborne data collection requirements of NOAA's Mission Goals. In addition to administering and regulating the use, operation and maintenance of NOAA's aircraft, related scientific instrumentation, associated equipment, and support facilities, the Aircraft Services Program assists other NOAA Programs with aircraft chartering needs.

Policy and procedure formulation, plans and budget development, and execution of annual allocation plans are conducted by Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) personnel primarily located in Silver Spring MD and Tampa FL.

Details of the capabilities and organization of OMAO and the Aircraft Operation Center may be found at [www.oma.noaa.gov](http://www.oma.noaa.gov) and [www.aoc.noaa.gov](http://www.aoc.noaa.gov).

**2. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

**A. Requirement Drivers:**

- 33USC Chapter 17 "National Ocean Survey" requires NOAA to acquire shoreline topographic data, promulgate standards, products and services for charts and related information for the safe navigation of marine and air commerce as well as basic data for engineering, scientific and commercial purposes.
- 16USC Chapters 31 "Marine Mammal Protection", 35 "Endangered Species" and 38 "Fishery Conservation and Management" make NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service responsible for protecting, restoring, and management species listed under the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act.
- 15USC Chapter 9 "National Weather Service" requires NOAA's National Weather Service to forecast the weather, issue storm warnings, report temperature and rain-fall conditions, and take meteorological observations necessary to establish and record the climatic conditions of the United States.
- 42USC Chapter 85 "Air Pollution Prevention and Control" mandates that NASA and NOAA monitor and report to Congress on the current average tropospheric concentration of chlorine and bromine and on the level of stratospheric ozone depletion.
- National Hurricane Operations Plan and the National Winter Storms Operations Plan requires NOAA provide weather reconnaissance flights, including synoptic surveillance in order to ensure the necessary preparedness actions are take to minimize loss of life

and destruction of property.

- NOAA's Strategic Plan identifies NOAA aircraft as an element of its Mission Support Goal and one of the components of "...the backbone of the global Earth observing system...."

**B. Mission Requirements:**

- Provide NOAA with the platforms required to safely meet current airborne data collection requirements of NOAA's Mission Goals and Line Offices.

### **3. LINKS TO THE NOAA STRATEGIC PLAN**

- A. **Goal Outcome:** The Aircraft Services Program supports the Mission Support outcome, "Ship, aircraft, and satellite programs that ensure continuous observation of critical environmental conditions."
- B. **Goal Performance Objective:** The Aircraft Services Program supports the Mission Support performance objective, "Improve efficiency and performance of financial, administrative, workforce management, acquisition, and other support transactions and services."
- C. **Goal Strategy:** The Aircraft Services Program employs the Mission Support strategy, "Use effective and efficient approaches to meet NOAA requirements for ship and aircraft support."

**4. PROGRAM OUTCOMES:** A mission-ready fleet of aircraft and support services that safely meet NOAA's airborne functional and operational data collection requirements.

**5. PROGRAM ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** This program is established and managed with the procedures established in the NOAA Business Operations Manual (BOM). Responsibilities of the Program Manager are described in the BOM. Responsibilities of other major participants are summarized below.

**A. Participating Line Office, Staff Office, and Council Responsibilities:**

1. OMAO is responsible for the operation and maintenance of NOAA's fleet of aircraft to safely and efficiently meet the airborne data collection requirements of NOAA's Mission Goals and Line Offices.
2. All of NOAA's line offices, through their associated Mission Goal Programs, are responsible for the identification of airborne data collection requirements, providing mission flight personnel, data processing, analysis and publication.
3. NOAA's Fleet Council approves the annual fleet allocation plans and provides guidance to all of NOAA's Programs regarding platform support.
4. NOAA's Observing Systems Council identifies gaps in NOAA observation systems which require airborne data collection assets.
5. NOAA's Ocean Council is responsible for coordinating ocean activities across NOAA;

proposing priorities and investment strategies for ocean-related initiatives; and coordinating NOAA's participation in the interagency National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP). The NOC is also authorized to develop a strategy and serve as the agency focal point for responding to and implementing the recommendations of the President's Ocean Action Plan and recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

6. NOAA's Research Council provides corporate oversight and develops policy to ensure that NOAA research activities are of the highest scientific quality, meet long-range societal needs, take advantage of emerging scientific and technological opportunities, shape a forward-looking research agenda, and are accomplished in an efficient and cost effective manner. Research Council recommendations affect aircraft allocation and the research that is conducted in the air.
7. NOAA's Education Council serves as a forum in NOAA for the discussion of ideas and proposals for NOAA-wide education and outreach activities and priorities and makes recommendations to NOAA management on all aspects of NOAA's educational activities.
8. NOAA's Safety Council supports the effective implementation of the NOAA Safety Policy for all employees. The Aircraft Services Program works closely with the Safety Council in developing and promulgating safety policy for all NOAA and outsourced aircraft.
9. NOAA's Workforce Management Office is responsible for recruiting, developing, and retaining a workforce with the competencies necessary to carry out NOAA's mission; managing diversity; and supporting strategic management of human capital.
10. NOAA's General Counsel assists in the development of Memoranda of Understanding as necessary to meet its operational requirements with agency partners.
11. NOAA's Facilities Program assists in aircraft storage development and maintenance.
12. NOAA's Information Technology Services Program acquires and implements information technology infrastructure that assures NOAA missions are able to adequately and securely deliver their data products.

**B. External Agency/Organization Responsibilities:**

1. Naval Aviation Depot, Jacksonville FL, provides aviation maintenance services.
2. Defense Energy Support Center and Defense Logistics Agency provide aviation fuel and parts.
3. MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa FL, provides Host Tenant support for NMAO's Aircraft Operations Center.
4. The Federal Aviation Administration provides engineering and technical support.
5. The U.S. Public Health Service provides medical services for flight certification.
6. The Department of the Air Force, Electronics Systems Center, Global Air Traffic Operations System Program Office and the Department of the Navy, Naval Inventory Control Point provide aviation supplies and parts.

7. The Department of the Air Force and the Defense Information Systems Agency provide Iridium phones and support.
8. The Department of State and their embassies provide administrative support while deployed.

## **6. END USERS OR BENEFICIARIES OF PROGRAM**

The Aircraft Services Program provides NOAA with the platforms required to meet the airborne data collection requirements of NOAA's Mission Goals and Line Offices. NOAA aircraft provide measurements and observations that:

- Support healthy and productive coastal marine ecosystems;
- Support a predictive understanding of the global climate system;
- Reduce loss of life, injury, and damage to the economy due to weather related events;
- Support safe, secure, efficient, and seamless movement of goods in the U.S. marine transportation system.
- Develop a collaborative process with the FAA to collect, compile and analyze aeronautical survey data.

NOAA Mission Goal Programs which have airborne data collection requirements include:

- Climate Forcing
- Climate Observations and Analysis
- Climate Predictions and Projections
- Emergency Response
- Geodesy
- Marine Transportation Systems
- Coastal and Marine Resources
- Ecosystem Observations
- Ecosystem Research
- Habitat
- Air Quality
- Coasts, Estuaries and Oceans
- Hydrology – Rivers, Lakes and Floods
- Local Forecasts and Warnings
- Weather Water Science, Technology and Infusion

Ultimately, the data collected by these programs supports the Nation's economy and public well-being.

The aviation component of the Teacher at Sea program promotes environmental literacy and inspires America's youth to pursue scientific and technical careers.